

# **Abortion and Race**

## ***The truth....***

Mike Males writes, "Today's young people are less prone to serious or petty crime and drug abuse than their 1970s counterparts." And he reports that "the fastest-growing crime and prison population is not among black or Hispanic teenagers, but among white, non-Hispanic, 30-60 year olds."

(Reading: "America's Youth Violence Hoax," The Lancet, 10/30/99, pp. 1563-4; contact author: mmales@earthlink.net)

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## **The rhetoric .....**

***The following article appeared in Long Island Newsday, (NY) August 8, 1999, {Monday},page A14 under the heading "World/Nation." Under five short articles it states, "COMPILED FROM NEWS DISPATCHES."***

### **Abortion, Crime Dip Link**

An unpublished study circulating among economists and criminal-law experts suggests that the egalization of abortion in the early 1970's has contributed to a drop in crime, the Chicago Tribune reported yesterday.

The researchers argue that many women whose children would have been most likely to commit crimes instead chose to abort their pregnancies.

The authors also conclude that unwanted children are most likely to commit crimes as adults, and those most likely to give birth to unwanted children are teenagers, minorities and the poor. Those are also the people most likely to choose abortion, the study found.

Steven Levitt, a University of Chicago economist, and John Donohue III, a Stanford University Law professor, said their analysis suggests that legalized abortion may account for as much as half of the over-all U.S. Crime drop from 1991-1997.

**Levitt and Donohue say their research was an attempt to determine what causes reduced crime, and was not an endorsement of abortion.**